



Green Up Your Fundraiser!

Purchasing disposable food service supplies such as plates, utensils, cups and to-go containers for fundraisers are an overhead layout that cuts into your group's fundraising returns. These items are made from plastic resins and polystyrene (Styrofoam) which is a material that never biodegrades and is almost impossible to recycle. Here are a few ideas on how to save money and be good to the environment at your next food-based fundraiser:

First, try to avoid using containers by:

- 1) Printing "BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS" on event tickets
- 2) Be daring and advertise and print on tickets "BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS-NO TO-GO CONTAINERS PROVIDED" (You can still have a few available to accommodate those who might not have received the message).
- 3) Many churches have a kitchen already stocked with dishes, utensils and drinking cups. Consider serving dine in customers using these reusable supplies. Your group will save money on having to purchase disposable containers and supplies and you will drastically reduce the waste created by the fundraiser.



Also, when purchasing disposable supplies, consider purchasing alternatives to plastic and polystyrene that are now available. Regular paper plates are preferable to polystyrene because they are biodegradable and they are not made using petroleum products. Many compostable and biodegradable alternatives to plastic are now made from renewable plant sources that do not compete with the food supply.